

**Act 62 Publicly Funded Prekindergarten Programs  
Instructions for Plan to Obtain 4 STARS with 2 Points in Each Arena**

***Purpose:***

Act 62 requires that early childhood programs seeking to offer publicly funded prekindergarten must meet specific quality standards. These program quality standards are:<sup>1</sup>

- (1) Accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC),
- (2) A minimum of four stars in Vermont's Step Ahead Recognition System (STARS), with at least two points in each of the five arenas, or
- (3) At least three STARS if the program has a plan to achieve four or more stars within three years; the plan must be approved by the commissioners of the Department of Education, and the Department for Children and Families.

The attached form is to be used by programs with three STARS (or with four STARS but fewer than two points in each arena) that seek to provide publicly funded prekindergarten education and are willing to commit to obtaining four STARS with at least two points in each arena within the next three years.

***Instructions:***

1. Provide your program name, your name, and email address.
2. Report the number of points you currently have for each of the five arenas.
3. Review the STARS Program Guide which can be found at the following link:  
[http://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/stars/apply\\_to\\_stars](http://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/stars/apply_to_stars).
4. Working with your staff (if applicable), study the Arenas of Action and Point Standards on pages 7-12 of the STARS Program Guide. Identify what actions and documents are needed for your program to obtain at least two points in each arena. (Please note that your program will need to apply for three points in at least one arena in order to achieve four STARS since 11-13 points are required.)
5. Determine the number of points your program can realistically achieve in each arena within three years, and fill in the "Proposed # of Points" column.
6. Summarize the actions your program will complete during the current year (Year 1 is 2009), in Year 2, and in Year 3. Your plan for Year 3 must ensure your program will be eligible for the proposed number of points and four STARS. If your program already has two points in an arena, you do not need to include that arena in your plan.
7. Send the completed form to:  
  
Armando Vilaseca, Commissioner  
Attn: STARS Plan  
Department of Education  
120 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2510
8. If you have any questions about completing this form, please contact Manuela Fonseca at [manuela.fonseca@state.vt.us](mailto:manuela.fonseca@state.vt.us). If you have questions about STARS, please contact Jan Walker at [jan.walker@ahs.state.vt.us](mailto:jan.walker@ahs.state.vt.us).

---

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Department of Education Rule 2606(1)(a) sections 1 through 3.

## Plan for Increasing Program Quality to 4 STARS with 2 Points in Each Arena

**Program Name:****Contact Person:****Email:**

Arena	Current # of Points	Proposed # of Points	Actions to Obtain Proposed # of Points:		
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Compliance History					
Qualifications & Training					
Families and Community					
Program Assessment					
Administration					
Total # of Points					

**NOTE:** Ensure that you plan to increase to at least 2 points per arena and enough points overall to move from 3 to 4 STARS.

☐ **APPROVED**     ☐ **NEEDS TO BE REVISED** *(You will be contacted and offered technical assistance to improve your plan.)*

**Signatures:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Armando Vilaseca, Commissioner**  
**Department of Education**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Steve Dale, Commissioner**  
**Department for Children & Families**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**